

## CLAIMS

1. A computer program product, tangibly embodied in an information carrier, comprising instructions operable to cause data processing apparatus to:

display application data in user interface elements, the user interface elements comprising two or more independent elements and one or more dependent elements, where one of the independent elements can have the property of being the selected element, and where the application data displayed in the dependent elements is made to correspond to the application data displayed in the selected element;

receive user input from a user to establish a normal mode or a decoupled mode of user interface operation; and

receive navigation input to navigate from one user interface element to another user interface element, where in the normal mode, navigation to an independent element causes the independent element to become the selected element, and where in the decoupled mode, navigation to an independent element does not change which, if any, of the independent elements is the selected element.

2. The computer program product of claim 1, further comprising instructions operable to:

receive user input from a user switching to the normal mode from the decoupled mode and thereupon cause the independent element specified by the most recently received navigation input to become the selected element.

3. The computer program product of claim 1, further comprising instructions operable to:

establish the decoupled mode when a key is pressed and held by the user; and  
establish the normal mode when the key is released by the user.

4. The computer program product of claim 3, wherein the key comprises a control key on a keyboard.

5. The computer program product of claim 1, further comprising instructions operable to:

display application data in a table having two or more rows and one or more detail views, the rows being the independent elements and the one or more detail views being the dependent elements, where if one of the rows is the selected element, the application data displayed in the detail views is made to correspond to the application data displayed in the selected element.

6. The computer program product of claim 1, wherein

the dependent elements include first level elements and second level elements, where one of the first level elements can have the property of being the first level selected element, and where the application data displayed in the second level elements is made to correspond to the application data displayed in the first level selected element, further comprising instructions operable to:

receive user input to navigate to first level elements, where in the normal mode, navigation to a first level element causes the first level element to become the selected element, and where in the decoupled mode, navigation to a first level element does not change which, if any, of the first level elements is the selected element.

7. The computer program product of claim 6, further comprising instructions operable to:

receive user input from a user switching to the normal mode from the decoupled mode and thereupon cause the first level element specified by the most recently received navigation input to become the first level selected element.

8. A computer implemented method, comprising:

displaying application data in user interface elements, the user interface elements comprising two or more independent elements and one or more dependent elements, where one of the independent elements can have the property of being the selected element, and  
5 where the application data displayed in the dependent elements is made to correspond to the application data displayed in the selected element;

receiving user input from a user to establish a normal mode or a decoupled mode of user interface operation; and

receiving navigation input to navigate from one user interface element to another user  
10 interface element, where in the normal mode, navigation to an independent element causes the independent element to become the selected element, and where in the decoupled mode, navigation to an independent element does not change which, if any, of the independent elements is the selected element.

9. The method of claim 8, further comprising:

15 receiving user input from a user switching to the normal mode from the decoupled mode and thereupon cause the independent element specified by the most recently received navigation input to become the selected element.

10. The method of claim 8, further comprising:

establishing the decoupled mode when a key is pressed and held by the user; and  
20 establishing the normal mode when the key is released by the user.

11. The method of claim 10, wherein the key comprises a control key on a keyboard.

12. The method of claim 8, further comprising:

displaying application data in a table having two or more rows and one or more detail views, the rows being the independent elements and the one or more detail views being the  
25 dependent elements, where if one of the rows is the selected element, the application data displayed in the detail views is made to correspond to the application data displayed in the selected element.

13. The method of claim 8, wherein

the dependent elements include first level elements and second level elements, where one of the first level elements can have the property of being the first level selected element, and where the application data displayed in the second level elements is made to correspond  
5 to the application data displayed in the first level selected element, the method further comprising:

receiving user input to navigate to first level elements, where in the normal mode, navigation to a first level element causes the first level element to become the selected element, and where in the decoupled mode, navigation to a first level element does not  
10 change which, if any, of the first level elements is the selected element.

14. The method of claim 13, further comprising:

receiving user input from a user switching to the normal mode from the decoupled mode and thereupon cause the first level element specified by the most recently received navigation input to become the first level selected element.

15. An apparatus comprising:

means for displaying application data in user interface elements, the user interface elements comprising two or more independent elements and one or more dependent elements, where one of the independent elements can have the property of being the selected element, and where the application data displayed in the dependent elements is made to  
20 correspond to the application data displayed in the selected element;

means for receiving user input from a user to establish a normal mode or a decoupled mode of user interface operation; and

means for receiving navigation input to navigate from one user interface element to another user interface element, where in the normal mode, navigation to an independent  
25 element causes the independent element to become the selected element, and where in the decoupled mode, navigation to an independent element does not change which, if any, of the independent elements is the selected element.